



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Fact Sheet**

**SANDERS FORWARDS SECOND FIRE HELICOPTER  
PLAN TO CITY COUNCIL**

***MAYOR'S PLAN EXPANDS AROUND-THE-CLOCK FIRE-RESCUE SERVICE***

Mayor Jerry Sanders will present his plan Tuesday to the City Council for the City to purchase a second helicopter for the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department. To maximize availability, minimize response times and provide for the greatest mission flexibility, the second helicopter will be staffed around the clock with a pilot, crew chief, and firefighter paramedic as is currently done with Copter 1.

The availability of a second medium-lift helicopter will help ensure that residents of San Diego have access to immediate and continuous aerial fire suppression, rescue, and emergency medical services. The acquisition and staffing of a second fire-rescue helicopter is essential to ensuring the Fire-Rescue Department's ability to maintain at least one operational helicopter at all times and to provide additional aerial capability to respond to multiple, concurrent and large-scale emergency incidents.

The completed helicopter is expected to be in service by August 2008, prior to the arrival of seasonal Santa Ana winds.

**HELICOPTER SPECIFICATIONS**

- **Acquisition funding:** 15-year lease-purchase agreement
- **Manufacturer:** Bell Textron Helicopter
- **Model:** Bell 412EP medium-lift helicopter
- **Estimated purchase cost:** \$8.5 million
- **Additional costs to install necessary technology:** \$1.75 to \$2 million
- **Total estimated cost of fully loaded helicopter:** \$10.5 million
- **Fully financed cost of helicopter:** \$15.9 million

### **STAFFING PLAN**

- Staffing for the second fire-rescue helicopter will be provided in the same manner as currently provided for Copter 1, assuring immediate 24-hour, seven-days-a-week availability.
- The staff will consist of a pilot, crew chief, and firefighter paramedic.
- A second Air Operations Base will be established at Otay Mesa Fire Station 43, where one of the two helicopters could be staged as needed.

### **ADVANTAGES OF EXPANDING THE CITY'S FIRE-RESCUE FLEET**

- Increased probability that at least one helicopter will be available at all times
- Capacity to handle multiple, concurrent emergency missions
- Doubling of City-controlled aerial firefighting resources for large incidents
- Dividing operating hours between both aircraft, thereby increasing their service life
- Enhanced maintenance coverage under the manufacturer's extended warranty program
- Increased capability and safety via state-of-the-art technology and safety features
- Having single-owner maintenance documentation and aircraft history
- Creation of higher, original-owner resale value